

U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 10/538,916
Amendment filed May 2, 2008
Reply to OA dated February 8, 2008

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 2, 3, 5-16 and 18-21, and amend claims 1 and 17, as follows. This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (Currently amended): A An isolated marker protein for diagnosing liver disease, selected from a protein which is a human fibrinogen α -E chain decomposition product and has a molecular weight of 5,900 (5.9 kDa protein), a protein which is an apolipoprotein AI decomposition product and has a molecular weight of 7,800 (7.8 kDa protein) and variants of these proteins which have the same function as that of the proteins as a marker protein for diagnosing liver disease the protein having the amino acid sequence shown as SEQ ID NO: 1 in the sequence listing.

Claims 2-16 (Canceled).

Claim 17 (Currently amended): A An isolated protein having the amino acid sequence shown as SEQ ID NO: 1 in the sequence listing, or its variant having the same function as that of said protein as a marker protein for diagnosing liver disease, said variant being a protein having 90% or more homology with said amino acid sequence or a protein having an amino acid sequence formed by deletion, substitution or addition of one or more amino acid residues in the amino acid sequence shown as SEQ ID NO: 1.

Claims 18-21 (Canceled).